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Louisiana Crop Yields Surpass Records

The 2010 crop year has been a tremendous year for Louisiana field crops. “With harvest season coming to an end for many crops, farmers are seeing better yields than they expected. Our October yield estimates for Louisiana are at or above record-levels for soybean, rice, sorghum and hay,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Good weather expedited harvesting, and many producers have completed or will complete harvest within the next few weeks,” Crisp added.

Soybean production is expected to total 44 million bushels in Louisiana, up five percent from the September estimate and up 20 percent from 2009. Soybean acreage for harvest is forecast at 1,000,000 acres, up 60,000 acres from 2009. Yield is forecast at 44 bushels per acre, up two bushels from the previous month and up five bushels from last year. If realized, this will break the existing record of 43 bushels per acre set in 2007. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at a record high 3.4 billion bushels, down two percent from the September forecast but one percent above last year.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 34.1 million cwt, unchanged from the previous month but up 17 percent from 2009. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 525,000 acres, up 61,000 acres from the 2009 crop. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,500 pounds, unchanged from the previous month but up 200 pounds from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 242.3 million cwt, down five percent from the September forecast but up ten percent from last year.

Sorghum production is estimated at 8 million bushels in the state, down six percent from the September estimate but up 50 percent from 2009. Acreage expected for harvest was revised to 80,000 acres, up 15,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 100 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but up 18 bushels from a year ago. If realized, this would break the existing record of 97 bushels per acres set in 2005. U.S. production of **sorghum** is forecast at 337.2 million bushels, down ten percent from last month and 12 percent below last year.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 1.3 million tons, unchanged from the August estimate but up 23 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 410,000 acres, up 30,000 acres from 2009. Yield, at 3.2 tons per acre, is expected to be up 0.4 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record in the state. U.S. **all hay** production is forecast at 152.3 million tons, up three percent from 2009.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 440,000 bales, up seven percent from the September estimate and up 26 percent from last year. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest is forecast at 250,000 acres, up 25,000 acres from a year ago. The expected yield per acre, at 845 pounds, is up 58 pounds from the September forecast and up 100 pounds from 2009. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 18.4 million bales, up fractionally from last month and 56 percent above 2009.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 75 million bushels, up four percent from the previous month’s estimate but down seven percent from last year. Estimated production is up from last month as corn harvested acreage was revised to 500,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. Yield per acre, at 150 bushels, is unchanged from last month but up 18 bushels from last year’s yield. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 12.7 billion bushels, down four percent from last month and down three percent from last year’s record production.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 12.9 million net tons, unchanged from the previous month but down six percent from last year. Harvested acreage for sugar and seed is forecast at 415,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 31 net tons per acre, unchanged from the September estimate but down 1.2 net tons from last year. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2010 is forecast at 30.2 million net tons, unchanged from the September forecast but down one percent from 2009.

Louisiana’s **pecan** production is forecast at 8 million pounds, compared to 9 million pounds last year. U.S. **all pecan** production is forecast at 271 million pounds, down seven percent from 2009.